

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION**

United States of America,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Dr. Tina Wong,

Defendant.

No. 2:23-cv-63-MRW

**[PROPOSED] ORDER FOR
PERMANENT INJUNCTION,
CIVIL PENALTY JUDGMENT,
AND OTHER RELIEF**

Plaintiff, the United States of America, acting upon notification and authorization to the Attorney General by the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC” or “Commission”) filed its Complaint for Permanent Injunction, Civil Penalties, and Other Relief (“Complaint”) in this matter for a permanent injunction, civil penalties, and other relief, pursuant to Sections 5(a)(1), 5(m)(1)(A), 12, 13(b), and 16(a)(1) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 45(a)(1), 45(m)(1)(A), 52, 53(b), and 56(a)(1) and Section 1401 of the COVID-19 Consumer Protection Act of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (“CCPA”), Pub. L. No. 116-260, § 1401, 134 Stat. 1182, 3275-76 (2020). Defendant has waived service of the summons and the Complaint. Plaintiff and Defendant

1 stipulate to the entry of this Stipulated Order for Permanent Injunction, Civil
 2 Penalty Judgment, and Other Relief (“Order”) to resolve all matters in dispute in
 3 this action between them.

4 Having read and considered the Stipulation for Entry of Order for Permanent
 5 Injunction, Civil Penalty Judgment, and Other Relief submitted by the parties, and
 6 finding good cause therefor,

7 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

8 **FINDINGS**

9 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.

10 2. The Complaint charges that Defendant engaged in unfair or deceptive
 11 acts or practices in violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), and
 12 disseminated false advertisements in or affecting commerce for the purpose of
 13 inducing, or which were likely to induce, the purchase of doTERRA supplements
 14 and essential oil products in violation of Section 12 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C.
 15 § 52.

16 3. Under the CCPA, for the duration of the ongoing novel coronavirus
 17 (COVID-19) public health emergency, it is unlawful for any person, partnership, or
 18 corporation to engage in a deceptive act or practice in or affecting commerce in
 19 violation of Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a), that is associated with
 20 the treatment, cure, prevention, mitigation, or diagnosis of COVID-19. CCPA
 21 § 1401(b)(1).

22 4. A violation of Section 1401(b)(1) of the CCPA is treated as a violation
 23 of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under Section
 24 18(a)(1)(B) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 57a(a)(1)(B). CCPA § 1401(c)(1).

25 5. Defendant neither admits nor denies any of the allegations in the
 26 Complaint, except as specifically stated in this Order. Only for purposes of this
 27 action, Defendant admits the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.
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6. Defendant waives any claim that she may have under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, concerning the prosecution of this action through the date of this Order, and agrees to bear her own costs and attorney fees.

7. Defendant and Plaintiff waive all rights to appeal or otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Order.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Order, the following definitions apply:

A. **“Covered Product(s)”** means any Food, Drug or Dietary Supplement.

B. **“Defendant”** means Dr. Tina Wong.

C. **“Dietary Supplement”** means: (1) any product labeled as a dietary supplement or otherwise represented as a dietary supplement; or (2) any pill, tablet, capsule, powder, softgel, gelcap, liquid, or other similar form containing one or more ingredients that are a vitamin, mineral, herb or other botanical, amino acid, probiotic, or other dietary substance for use by humans to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake, or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any ingredient described above, that is intended to be ingested, and is not represented to be used as a conventional food or as a sole item of a meal or the diet.

D. **“Doctor-Patient Communication”** means any communication between Defendant and an individual with whom Defendant has a doctor-patient relationship as recognized by state law in the course of Defendant’s professional medical practice conducted pursuant to a valid state medical license.

E. **“Drug”** means: (1) articles recognized in the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States, or official National Formulary, or any supplement to any of them; (2) articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans or other animals; (3) articles (other than Food) intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of humans or other animals; and (4)

1 articles intended for use as a component of any article specified in (1), (2), or (3);
 2 but does not include devices or their components, parts, or accessories.

3 F. **“Essentially Equivalent Product”** means a product that contains the
 4 identical ingredients, except for inactive ingredients (e.g., binders, colors, fillers,
 5 excipients) in the same form and dosage, and with the same route of administration
 6 (e.g., orally, sublingually), as the Covered Product; provided that the Covered
 7 Product may contain additional ingredients if reliable scientific evidence generally
 8 accepted by experts in the field indicates that the amount and combination of
 9 additional ingredients is unlikely to impede or inhibit the effectiveness of the
 10 ingredients in the Essentially Equivalent Product.

11 G. **“Food”** means: (1) articles used for food or drink for man or other
 12 animals; (2) chewing gum; and (3) articles used for components of any such
 13 article.

14 **ORDER**

15 **I. BAN AGAINST COVID-19 CLAIMS**

16 **IT IS ORDERED** that Defendant, whether acting directly or indirectly, in
 17 connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for
 18 sale, sale, or distribution of any product, is permanently restrained and enjoined
 19 from making any representation, other than a Doctor-Patient Communication, that
 20 such product prevents or reduces the likelihood of infection with, or community
 21 transmission of, the SARS-CoV-2 virus; reduces the severity or duration of
 22 COVID-19; counteracts inflammation or other purported negative effects of
 23 COVID-19 vaccines; or otherwise cures or treats COVID-19, unless the Food and
 24 Drug Administration has specifically approved the representation.

25 **II. PROHIBITED REPRESENTATIONS: HEALTH-RELATED CLAIMS** 26 **REQUIRING HUMAN CLINICAL TESTING FOR SUBSTANTIATION**

27 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant, Defendant’s agents,
 28 employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation

1 with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly
2 or indirectly, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising,
3 promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any Covered Product, are
4 permanently restrained and enjoined from making, or assisting others in making,
5 expressly or by implication, any representation, other than a Doctor-Patient
6 Communication or representations covered under the Section of this Order titled
7 Ban Against COVID-19 Claims, that such product cures, mitigates, or treats any
8 disease, unless the representation is non-misleading, and, at the time of making
9 such representation, they possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific
10 evidence substantiating that the representation is true.

11 For purposes of this Section, competent and reliable scientific evidence must
12 consist of human clinical testing of the Covered Product or of an Essentially
13 Equivalent Product, that is sufficient in quality and quantity based on standards
14 generally accepted by experts in the relevant disease, condition, or function to
15 which the representation relates, when considered in light of the entire body of
16 relevant and reliable scientific evidence, to substantiate that the representation is
17 true. Such testing must be: (1) randomized, double-blind, and placebo-controlled;
18 and (2) conducted by researchers qualified by training and experience to conduct
19 such testing. In addition, all underlying or supporting data and documents
20 generally accepted by experts in the field as relevant to an assessment of such
21 testing as described in the Section entitled Preservation of Records Relating to
22 Competent and Reliable Human Clinical Tests or Studies must be available for
23 inspection and production to the Commission. Persons covered by this Section
24 have the burden of proving that a product satisfies the definition of Essentially
25 Equivalent Product.

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**III. PROHIBITED REPRESENTATIONS:
OTHER HEALTH-RELATED CLAIMS**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant, Defendant's agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising, promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any Covered Product, are permanently restrained and enjoined from making, expressly or by implication, any representation, other than a Doctor-Patient Communication or representations covered under the Sections of this Order titled Ban Against COVID-19 Claims and Prohibited Representations: Health-Related Claims Requiring Human Clinical Testing For Substantiation, about the health benefits, performance, efficacy, safety, or side effects of any Covered Product, unless the representation is non-misleading, and, at the time of making such representation, they possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific evidence that is sufficient in quality and quantity based on standards generally accepted by experts in the relevant disease, condition, or function to which the representation relates, when considered in light of the entire body of relevant and reliable scientific evidence, to substantiate that the representation is true.

For purposes of this Section, "competent and reliable scientific evidence" means tests, analyses, research, or studies: (1) that have been conducted and evaluated in an objective manner by experts in the relevant disease, condition, or function to which the representation relates; (2) that are generally accepted by such experts to yield accurate and reliable results; and (3) that are randomized, double-blind, and placebo-controlled human clinical testing of the Covered Product, or of an Essentially Equivalent Product, when such experts would generally require such human clinical testing to substantiate that the representation is true. In addition, when such tests or studies are human clinical tests or studies, all underlying or

1 supporting data and documents generally accepted by experts in the field as
2 relevant to an assessment of such testing as set forth in the Section entitled
3 Preservation of Records Relating to Competent and Reliable Human Clinical Tests
4 or Studies must be available for inspection and production to the Commission.
5 Persons covered by this Section have the burden of proving that a product satisfies
6 the definition of Essentially Equivalent Product.

7 **IV. PRESERVATION OF RECORDS RELATING TO COMPETENT AND**
8 **RELIABLE HUMAN CLINICAL TESTS OR STUDIES**

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, with regard to any human clinical test
10 or study (“test”) upon which Defendant relies to substantiate any claim covered by
11 this Order, Defendant must secure and preserve all underlying or supporting data
12 and documents generally accepted by experts in the field as relevant to an
13 assessment of the test, including:

14 A. all protocols and protocol amendments, reports, articles, write-ups, or
15 other accounts of the results of the test, and drafts of such documents reviewed by
16 the test sponsor or any other person not employed by the research entity;

17 B. all documents referring or relating to recruitment; randomization;
18 instructions, including oral instructions, to participants; and participant
19 compliance;

20 C. documents sufficient to identify all test participants, including any
21 participants who did not complete the test, and all communications with any
22 participants relating to the test; all raw data collected from participants enrolled in
23 the test, including any participants who did not complete the test; source
24 documents for such data; any data dictionaries; and any case report forms;

25 D. all documents referring or relating to any statistical analysis of any
26 test data, including any pretest analysis, intent-to-treat analysis, or between-group
27 analysis performed on any test data; and
28

1 E. all documents referring or relating to the sponsorship of the test,
 2 including all communications and contracts between any sponsor and the test's
 3 researchers.

4 *Provided, however,* the preceding preservation requirement does not apply to
 5 a reliably reported test, unless the test was conducted, controlled, or sponsored, in
 6 whole or in part by: (1) Defendant; (2) Defendant's agents, representatives, or
 7 employees; (3) any other person or entity in active concert or participation with
 8 Defendant; (4) any person or entity affiliated with or acting on behalf of
 9 Defendant; (5) any supplier of any ingredient contained in the product at issue to
 10 any of the foregoing or to the product's manufacturer; or (6) the supplier or
 11 manufacturer of such product.

12 For purposes of this Section, "reliably reported test" means a report of the
 13 test has been published in a peer-reviewed journal, and such published report
 14 provides sufficient information about the test for experts in the relevant field to
 15 assess the reliability of the results.

16 **V. PROHIBITED MISREPRESENTATIONS REGARDING TESTS,**
 17 **STUDIES, OTHER RESEARCH, OR INGREDIENTS**

18 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant, Defendant's agents,
 19 employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or participation
 20 with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether acting directly
 21 or indirectly, in connection with the manufacturing, labeling, advertising,
 22 promotion, offering for sale, sale, or distribution of any Covered Product, are
 23 permanently restrained and enjoined from misrepresenting, in any manner,
 24 expressly or by implication, outside of a Doctor-Patient Communication:

25 A. that the performance or benefits of any Covered Product are
 26 scientifically or clinically proven or otherwise established; or

27 B. the existence, contents, validity, results, conclusions, or interpretations
 28 of any test, study, or other research.

VI. FDA-APPROVED CLAIMS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that nothing in this Order prohibits Defendant, Defendant's agents, employees, and attorneys, or all other persons in active concert or participation with any of them from:

A. for any Drug product, making a representation that is approved for inclusion in labeling for such Drug product under a new drug application or biologics license application approved by the Food and Drug Administration, or, for any nonprescription Drug product authorized by Section 505G of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act ("FDCA"), 21 U.S.C. § 355h, to be marketed without an approved new drug application, making a representation that is permitted or required to appear in its labeling in accordance with Section 505G(a)(1)-(3) of the FDCA, 21 U.S.C. § 355h(a)(1)-(3), or a final administrative order under Section 505G(b) of the FDCA, 21 U.S.C. § 355h(b); and

B. for any product, making a representation that is specifically authorized for use in labeling for such product by regulations promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration pursuant to the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990 or permitted under Sections 303-304 of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997.

VII. MONETARY JUDGMENT FOR CIVIL PENALTY

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

A. Judgment in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) is entered in favor of Plaintiff against Defendant, as a civil penalty.

B. Defendant is ordered to pay to Plaintiff, by making payment to the Treasurer of the United States, Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) which, as Defendant stipulates, her undersigned counsel holds in escrow for no purpose other than payment to Plaintiff. Such payment must be made within 7 days of entry of this Order by electronic fund transfer in accordance with instructions previously provided by a representative of Plaintiff.

1 C. Defendant relinquishes dominion and all legal and equitable right,
2 title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to this Order and may not seek
3 the return of any assets.

4 D. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without
5 further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation by or on behalf of the Commission,
6 including in a proceeding to enforce its rights to any payment or monetary
7 judgment pursuant to this Order.

8 E. Defendant agrees that the judgment represents a civil penalty owed to
9 the government of the United States, is not compensation for actual pecuniary loss,
10 and, therefore, as to Defendant, it is not subject to discharge under the Bankruptcy
11 Code pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(7).

12 F. Defendant acknowledges that her Taxpayer Identification Numbers
13 (Social Security Numbers or Employer Identification Numbers), which Defendant
14 previously submitted to the Commission, may be used for collecting and reporting
15 on any delinquent amount arising out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C.
16 § 7701.

17 **VIII. ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

18 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant obtain acknowledgments of
19 receipt of this Order:

20 A. Defendant, within 7 days of entry of this Order, must submit to the
21 Commission an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under penalty of
22 perjury;

23 B. For 5 years after entry of this Order, Defendant, for any business that
24 Defendant is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must deliver a
25 copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and
26 members; (2) all employees having managerial responsibilities for conduct related
27 to the subject matter of the Order and all agents and representatives who participate
28 in conduct related to the subject matter of the Order; and (3) any business entity

1 resulting from any change in structure as set forth in the Section titled Compliance
 2 Reporting. Delivery must occur within 7 days of entry of this Order for current
 3 personnel. For all others, delivery must occur before they assume their
 4 responsibilities.

5 C. From each individual or entity to which Defendant delivered a copy of
 6 this Order, Defendant must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and dated
 7 acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

8 **IX. COMPLIANCE REPORTING**

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant make timely submissions to
 10 the Commission:

11 A. Ninety days after entry of this Order, Defendant must submit a
 12 compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury:

- 13 1) Defendant must: (a) identify the primary physical, postal, and
 14 email address and telephone number, as designated points of
 15 contact, which representatives of the Commission and Plaintiff
 16 may use to communicate with Defendant; (b) identify all of
 17 Defendant's businesses by all of their names, telephone
 18 numbers, and physical, postal, email, and Internet addresses; (c)
 19 describe the activities of each business, including the goods and
 20 services offered, the means of advertising, marketing, and sales;
 21 (d) describe in detail whether and how Defendant is in
 22 compliance with each Section of this Order; and (e) provide a
 23 copy of each Order Acknowledgment obtained pursuant to this
 24 Order, unless previously submitted to the Commission.
- 25 2) Additionally, Defendant must: (a) identify all telephone
 26 numbers and all physical, postal, email and Internet addresses,
 27 including all residences; (b) identify all business activities,
 28 including any business for which Defendant performs services

1 whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which
2 Defendant has any ownership interest; and (c) describe in detail
3 Defendant's involvement in each such business, including title,
4 role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control, and any
5 ownership.

6 B. For 10 years after entry of this Order, Defendant must submit a
7 compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any change in
8 the following:

- 9 1) Defendant must report any change in: (a) any designated point
10 of contact; or (b) any entity that Defendant has any ownership
11 interest in or controls directly or indirectly that may affect
12 compliance obligations arising under this Order, including:
13 creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity or any
14 subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or
15 practices subject to this Order.
- 16 2) Additionally, Defendant must report any change in: (a) name,
17 including aliases or fictitious name, or residence address; or (b)
18 title or role in any business activity, including any business for
19 which Defendant performs services whether as an employee or
20 otherwise and any entity in which Defendant has any ownership
21 interest, and identify the name, physical address, and any
22 Internet address of the business or entity.

23 C. Defendant must submit to the Commission notice of the filing of any
24 bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or against
25 Defendant within 14 days of its filing.

26 D. Any submission to the Commission required by this Order to be
27 sworn under penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28
28 U.S.C. § 1746, such as by concluding: "I declare under penalty of perjury under

1 the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.
 2 Executed on:” and supplying the date, signatory’s full name, title (if applicable),
 3 and signature.

4 E. Unless otherwise directed by a Commission representative in writing,
 5 all submissions to the Commission pursuant to this Order must be emailed to
 6 DEbrief@ftc.gov or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal Service) to:
 7 Associate Director for Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal
 8 Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580. The
 9 subject line must begin: United States v. Dr. Tina Wong.

10 **X. RECORDKEEPING**

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant must create certain records
 12 for 10 years after entry of the Order and retain each such record for 5 years.
 13 Specifically, for any business that Defendant is a majority owner or controls
 14 directly or indirectly, Defendant must create and retain the following records:

15 A. accounting records showing the revenues from all products sold;

16 B. personnel records showing, for each person providing services,
 17 whether as an employee or otherwise, that person’s: name; addresses; telephone
 18 numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the reason for
 19 termination;

20 C. records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether
 21 received directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;

22 D. all records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each
 23 Section of this Order, including all submissions to the Commission; and

24 E. a copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material
 25 making any representation covered by Sections I, II, III, and V of this Order.

26 **XI. COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

27 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, for the purpose of monitoring
 28 Defendant’s compliance with this Order:

1 A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of
2 the Plaintiff or the Commission, Defendant must: submit additional compliance
3 reports or other requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of
4 perjury; appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and
5 copying. The Commission and Plaintiff are also authorized to obtain discovery,
6 without further leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal
7 Rules of Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including telephonic depositions), 31, 33, 34, 36,
8 45, and 69.

9 B. For matters concerning this Order, the Commission and Plaintiff are
10 authorized to communicate directly with Defendant. Defendant must permit
11 representatives of the Commission and Plaintiff to interview any employee or other
12 person affiliated with Defendant who has agreed to such an interview. The person
13 interviewed may have counsel present.

14 C. The Commission and Plaintiff may use all other lawful means,
15 including posing, through its representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other
16 individuals or entities, to Defendant or any individual or entity affiliated with
17 Defendant, without the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this
18 Order limits the Commission's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to
19 Sections 9 and 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

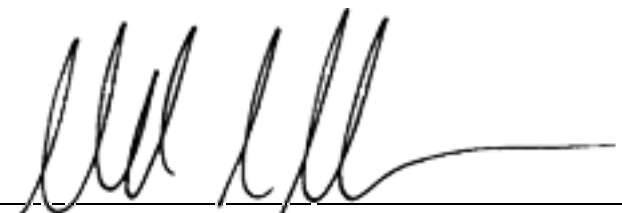
20 D. Upon written request from a representative of the Commission or
21 Plaintiff, any consumer reporting agency must furnish consumer reports
22 concerning Defendant, pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act,
23 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a)(1).
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XII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Court retains jurisdiction of this matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: 01/10/2023



MICHAEL R. WILNER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE